

Memorandum

Date: February 13, 2017

To: Natasha Baker, State School Reform/Redesign Officer
State School Reform/Redesign Office

From: Gary Jensen, Chief Executive Officer
East Detroit Public Schools Group

Subject: Chief Executive Office Transition from East Detroit Public Schools

Legal/Historical Background

On June 16, 2016, The State School Reform/Redesign Officer issued a notice to the Director and Chief Information Officer of the Michigan Department of Technology, Management, and Budget confirming the February 2, 2016 determination that better educational results would be achieved at several public schools in the East Detroit Public School District (EDPS) if a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) were appointed to take control of the identified schools. Subsequently, an Agreement for Chief Executive Services was executed between the State School Reform/Redesign Officer, the Director and Chief Information Office of the Michigan Department of Technology, Management, and Budget and myself on June 16, 2016.

The statutory authority to execute such an agreement is vested in the State School Reform/Redesign Officer under [Section 1280c\(7\) of the Revised School Code, 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.1280c\(7\)](#), which states:

(7) If the state school reform/redesign officer determines that better educational results are likely to be achieved by appointing a chief executive officer to take control of multiple public schools, the state school reform/redesign officer may make a recommendation to the superintendent of public instruction for appointment of a chief executive officer to take control over those multiple schools. If the superintendent of public instruction appoints a chief executive officer to take control of multiple public schools under this subsection, the chief executive officer shall impose for those public schools implementation of 1 of the 4 school intervention models described in subsection (2) and impose an addendum to each applicable collective bargaining agreement in effect for those public schools as necessary to implement the school intervention model and that meets the requirements of subsection (8). With respect to those public schools, the chief executive officer has all of the same powers and duties that the state school reform/redesign officer has for public schools placed in the state school reform/redesign school district under subsection (6). The chief executive officer shall regularly submit monitoring reports to the state school reform/redesign officer on the implementation and results of the intervention model in the form and manner, and according to a schedule, as determined by the state school reform/redesign officer. The chief executive officer shall exercise any other powers or duties over the public schools as may be directed by the superintendent of public instruction.

Schools and Intervention Models

Effective June 16, 2016, in the Agreement for Chief Executive Services the State School Reform/Redesign Officer placed the following East Detroit Public Schools under my authority as the CEO:

- Bellview Elementary School
- Pleasantview Elementary School
- Kelly Middle School
- East Detroit High School

As defined in Section 1280c(7) of the Revised School Code, 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.1280c(7), the CEO shall impose for those public schools implementation of 1 of the 4 school intervention models that are provided for the lowest achieving schools under the federal incentive grant program created under sections 14005 and 14006 of title XIV of the American recovery and reinvestment act of 2009, Public Law 111-5, known as the "race to the top" grant program. These models are the turnaround model, restart model, school closure, and transformation model.

I chose to adopt the previously approved Reform Plans submitted by the schools listed above and approved by the State School Reform/Redesign Office. Upon initial review of these plans, I did not find them substantially deficient in nature, but needed to verify that the plans are being utilized in the identified buildings as stated. Links to each of the plans can be found in the table below:

TABLE 1: Reform Plans and Intervention Models

School Building Name	Reform Plan Intervention Model
Bellview Elementary School	Transformation Model
Pleasantview Elementary School	Transformation Model
Kelly Middle School	Transformation Model
East Detroit High School	Transformation Model

Transition from East Detroit Public Schools

The need for a transition from East Detroit Public Schools has become apparent as three of the four schools originally placed under the Chief Executive Officer have been released from supervision of the School Reform Office. Continuing to utilize valuable School Reform Office resources in a district that has clearly not utilized the leadership skills of the Chief Executive Officer, sends a message that there are no more actionable steps to be taken with this option. Pulling the Chief Executive Officer from the district to utilize the available resources elsewhere would best serve the School Reform Office and other possible districts that are willing to utilize the leadership skills of a Chief Executive Officer.

The time spent being in and around East Detroit Public Schools has afforded the opportunity to witness teaching and learning throughout the buildings, but as the School Reform Office moves forward with their work in the state, it has become even more clear that East Detroit Public Schools will not utilize the Chief Executive Officer in a capacity that is going to benefit the district. Over 40 days in the schools and classrooms was generally met with resistance from the district and whether the team at East Detroit has taken information from the Chief Executive Officer to implement further changes is yet to be seen. The time spent in the schools and classrooms has afforded the opportunity to make an informed

recommendation to the School Reform Office on next steps for each school, including Kelly Middle School which is still presently under the authority of the School Reform Office.

With this information as the backdrop of making decisions concerning the Chief Executive Officer in East Detroit Public Schools, it is recommended that the School Reform Office immediately remove the Chief Executive Officer from East Detroit Public Schools and reassign the resources elsewhere for the remainder of the school year.

1. Recommendation from CEO concerning East Detroit Public Schools to SRO (March 2, 2017)
2. SRO completes Undue Hardship visits with 38 schools across the state (Feb 24, 2017)
3. SRO determines Next Level of Accountability for each of the 38 schools across the state (March)
4. SRO accepts recommendation from CEO for East Detroit Public Schools and removes CEO from East Detroit Public Schools upon announcement of 38 schools Next Level of Accountability (March)
5. Former CEO of East Detroit Public Schools, reassigned for remainder of school year and SRO determines next steps for the use of CEO in the State of Michigan (March)

Should you have any questions regarding my recommendations, please contact me directly.



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